



COUNTRY PROFILE



Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, Feed the Future is targeting investments in specific regions for maximum impact. These statistics reflect the realities of Bangladesh and the results of Feed the Future's work there.

POPULATION	POVERTY	STUNTING	RURAL	GDP
27 Million Approximate number of people who live in Feed the Future target regions	40.2 Percent Percentage of people living in poverty in Feed the Future target regions	38.1 Percent Percentage of children under 5 suffering from stunting in Feed the Future target regions	71 Percent Percentage of population living in rural Bangladesh (World Bank, 2012)	6.2 Percent Annual GDP growth. Agriculture accounts for 17.7 percent of added value (World Bank, 2012)
FARMERS	SALES	NUTRITION	LAND	INVESTMENT
3.3 Million Producers using new technology and skills with Feed the Future's help in FY13	\$380 Million Value of Feed the Future farmer sales in FY13	1.6 Million Children under 5 reached with nutrition help in FY13	1.2 Million Hectares tended with improved technologies or management practices in FY13	\$1.3 Million New private investment leveraged by Feed the Future in FY13

Approach

Bangladesh faces both challenges and opportunities for agriculture-led growth and food security. Since 2000, its GDP has grown at an average rate of six percent. Rice production has tripled over the last 30 years. The extreme (\$1.25 per day) [poverty rate fell](#) from about 59 percent in 2000 to about 43 percent in 2010.

Yet Bangladesh remains the most densely populated country in the world, with 153 million people living in a land area roughly the size of Iowa. And it has one of the highest rates of undernutrition in the world, with poverty, lack of access to agricultural land, and poor eating habits contributing. Similarly, Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of child stunting.

Forty-eight percent of Bangladeshis are employed in the agriculture sector and a large majority of the rural population is involved in fisheries. Some of Bangladesh's major crops include rice, tea, jute, potatoes, mangoes and onions.

About 27 million people live in Feed the Future's target regions in Bangladesh, where food security and nutrition face considerable challenges associated with climate change, such as scarce water resources, rising sea level, vulnerability to extreme shocks and changing weather patterns. Population growth, urbanization and soil and natural resource depletion have led to degradation of Bangladesh's land, water bodies, wetlands, and forests and pose a significant threat to the agriculture sector.

Gender-related factors further complicate food insecurity and undernutrition: Women are heavily engaged in agriculture but do not have access to extension services or other inputs like seeds and fertilizer. They are also often the last to eat at mealtimes.

Nonetheless, Bangladesh is making progress. The under-5 mortality rate has declined by more than 50 percent since 1993

and 88 percent of children under the age of 5 receive vitamin A supplementation twice a year through successful campaigns led by the government.

Consistent with the Government of Bangladesh's priorities, Feed the Future focuses on intensifying rice production while helping farmers diversify into higher-value, nutrient-dense commodities such as horticulture and fish. Particular emphasis is placed on climate-smart agricultural technologies and practices.

Strategy

Goal: Reduce prevalence of poverty in Feed the Future target regions by 20 percent.

- 2011 baseline: 40.2 percent
- 2017 target: 32.4 percent
- [How we calculate](#)

Goal: Reduce prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years old in Feed the Future target regions by 20 percent.

- 2011 baseline: 38.1 percent
- 2017 target: 30.5 percent
- [How we calculate](#)

To achieve its goals, Feed the Future is making key investments to:

- Increase on-farm productivity
- Increase investment in value chains
- Generate income
- Improve nutrition status for mothers and children
- Enhance policy and planning capacity
- Enhance agriculture innovation capacity
- Scale proven technologies to smallholder farmers
- Promote gender integration in agriculture and increase women's empowerment
- Coordinate with the Global Climate Change Initiative and collaborate with the [Global Health Initiative](#)

Feed the Future is focusing its efforts in targeted regions and value chains to maximize impact.

Value Chains

- Rice
- Horticulture
- Fisheries

Target Regions

- Feed the Future in Bangladesh targets investments in areas with the greatest growth potential for rice production and diversification, prioritized high-value agricultural production, and with high levels of poverty and malnutrition.
- In particular, Feed the Future works in 20 districts in the Southern Delta region of Bangladesh (population approximately 27 million).

Program Highlights

Nutrition. Through extension activities and community outreach, Feed the Future disseminates information on nutrition and social and behavioral change. In collaboration with the U.S. Government's [Global Health Initiative](#) and USAID's [Food for Peace](#) efforts, Feed the Future is improving nutrition service delivery for pregnant women and young children. Feed the Future also targets research on innovative nutrition technologies and biofortified varieties of rice to improve the quality of food and prevent and treat undernutrition. Feed the Future is also strengthening agriculture-nutrition linkages among its programs in Bangladesh.

Agriculture Research and Extension. Feed the Future targets intensification of rice production, promoting higher-yield, saline/drought resistant, and more nutritious rice by supporting research institutions, government policymakers, NGOs, farmers, and the private sector. Feed the Future is strengthening agricultural research capacity in Bangladesh with a focus on:

- Crops that are resilient to climate change-related challenges
- Improved cost effectiveness
- Improved farming practices, including fertilizer use and irrigation
- High-value crops

Climate-Smart Development. Crop research and development aims to improve resiliency to climate change impacts associated with salinity, drought and floods. Feed the Future's efforts in Bangladesh focus on efficient fertilizer use and improved irrigation technologies to mitigate greenhouse gas emission. Feed the Future also trains communities in conservation and sustainable agriculture practices. Through the Global Climate Change Initiative, the United States also promotes improved natural resource management, watershed protection, and sustainable management of water bodies since Bangladesh is heavily dependent on fishery systems.

Gender Integration. Nutrition education offered by Feed the Future focuses on women and children, though not to the exclusion of men. Feed the Future is working to improve the capacity of extension services to reach women and ensure that women are well represented in Bangladeshi agricultural support services. Feed the Future encourages teaching the "whole family at once" to assure access for women and the next generation of farmers as well as better information retention.

Private Sector Engagement. Feed the Future supports private sector growth by identifying market constraints and working with the government and private sector to eliminate these constraints. Feed the Future builds the capacity of farmers, small and medium enterprises, and civil society by improving access to markets and market information. The initiative is also partnering with large agriculture companies to address constraints related to the quality of seeds and fertilizer, market linkages, and cold storage infrastructure.

Scaling Innovation. Feed the Future in Bangladesh is focusing on scaling four technologies/practices to help smallholder farmers: fertilizer deep placement, high yielding/stress tolerant rice seeds, improved aquaculture practices (such as better feed, pond management, and disease-free larvae), and a service provider delivery model for mechanization/irrigation.

Results

Results by the numbers*

- More than **3 million farmers** and other producers applied new technologies and management practices on more than **1 million hectares** of land with Feed the Future's help
- Feed the Future-supported farmers and producers sold **\$380 million** (USD) worth of agricultural products
- Feed the Future leveraged more than **\$1 million** (USD) in new private investment in food and agriculture in Bangladesh
- U.S. Government nutrition programs reached **1.6 million children** under 5 years old

Though Bangladesh has enjoyed robust economic growth, it remains one of the world's poorest countries. More than 48 million people still live in poverty, and chronic malnutrition remains pervasive. The good news is that Bangladesh is approaching self-sufficiency in rice, an important national goal and a remarkable achievement for one of the world's most densely populated countries. Using new seed and fertilizer technologies, Feed the Future-supported farmers have increased rice production. Combined with other interventions, this helped them raise their incomes from an average of \$426/ha in 2012 to \$587/ha in 2013.

The [Global Agriculture and Food Security Program](#), a key Feed the Future-supported activity, has helped train farmers to use alternate wet-dry irrigation to conserve water during rice cultivation. Fertilizer deep placement, a process in which briquettes of fertilizer are placed close to plants' roots, was particularly effective. Using fertilizer deep placement along with improved rice varieties and other agronomic management practices, farmers increased rice yields by up to 20 percent, lowered fertilizer input costs and enjoyed additional rice production and sales valued at \$25 million.

In addition to increasing rice productivity, new technologies are allowing farmers to boost revenues by growing second or even third crops, including short-season, high-value rotation crops such as mustard, wheat, maize and sunflower.

Household farmers and commercial shrimp farmers increased their annual incomes by an average of \$240 and \$608, respectively, from 2012 to 2013. And because household farmers consume about 39 percent of the fish they produce, their families' nutrition improved alongside income stability.

To underpin these gains and to help ensure their sustainability, USDA's Sanitary and Phytosanitary Food Safety Project supported local capacity by training extension service officials, inspectors and plant protection/quarantine officials to better identify food safety risks. It also trained laboratory network technicians to improve risk characterization. This led to better

food safety policies and legislation, including a new food safety law.

Key achievements*

- More than 300,000 farmers grew high-yielding rice varieties that were specially bred to help overcome challenges such as flooding, drought and increasing soil salinity
- Feed the Future farmers increased their rice production—combined with other interventions, this helped raise their incomes an average of 37 percent per hectare from 2012 to 2013
- More than 500,000 farmers adopted improved fish species and better management practices, raising the productivity of both household and commercial fisheries and leading to nearly \$274 million in sales
- Household and commercial shrimp farmers increased their annual incomes by an average of 153 percent from 2012 to 2013
- The Government of Bangladesh passed a new food safety act
- A pest-resistant variety of eggplant was approved and initial seedlings distributed to farmers
- An agriculture-nutrition working group enhanced collaboration among Feed the Future partners
- Feed the Future enhanced its efforts related to GIS data collection and sharing

Reasons for success

- Focused interventions with clear goals and targets
- Technologies with clear, demonstrable benefits to farmers
- Partnership with and support from the Bangladesh Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

*What you need to know about these results

They reflect data from USAID and the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Treasury (through the International Fund for Agricultural Development and Global Agriculture and Food Security Program) reported into Feed the Future's central monitoring system.

They reflect FY2013 only and are a result of U.S. Government assistance.

We calculate poverty rates using the \$1.25 per day standard.

While our data collection and reporting systems are quite rigorous, we're still perfecting them. We're also updating our central monitoring system to track outcomes of our new policy and scaling initiatives, such as increases in indirect beneficiaries.

In our latest [progress report](#), we reported on incremental sales, which represent new sales by smallholder farmers of agricultural products in FY2013, compared to a baseline. The infographic above captures total reporting year sales.

Opportunities

Bangladesh has tremendous potential for agriculture-led growth, with fertile soil, abundant water, strong research and extension institutions, and expanding infrastructure. Over the past several decades, the Government of Bangladesh has adjusted its policies in the agriculture sector to increase private sector participation and reduce tariffs and price controls. The Government of Bangladesh has demonstrated strong leadership in the area of food security and finalized its Country Investment Plan in March 2011.

Looking for opportunities to work in our Feed the Future countries? Visit the opportunities tabs on our [Research](#) and [Civil Society](#) pages.

If you're a [private sector](#) company interested in a partnership with Feed the Future agencies in the areas of food security and nutrition in Bangladesh, use our [interactive online tool](#) to learn more, register your partnership ideas with us, and get connected to a partnership expert who can help address your interest.

Activities

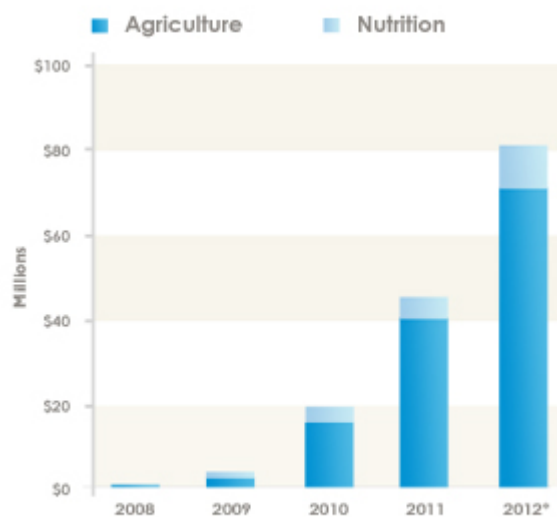
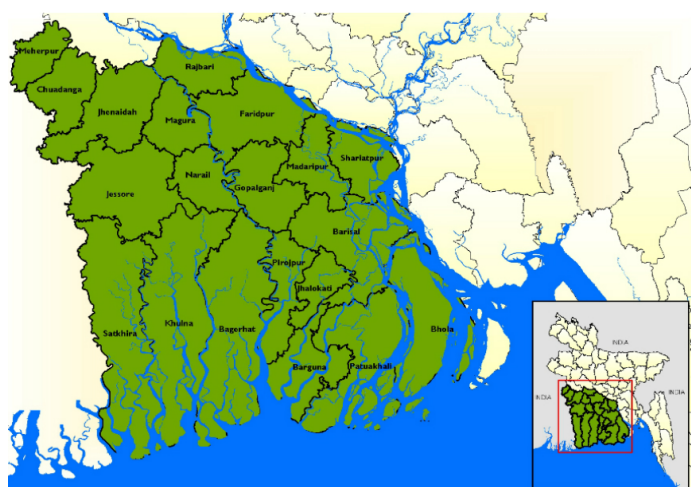
USAID activities in Bangladesh:

- Strengthening Democratic Local Governance
- Agriculture Inputs Network Development
- Accelerating Agriculture Productivity Improvement
- Agriculture Biotechnology Support Project Phase II
- Agriculture Value Chains
- Borlaug Fellowship Program
- Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia
- Enabling Agricultural Trade
- Horticulture Project
- Risk Management for Food Security in Bangladesh – Sanitary and Phytosanitary Food Safety Project
- Policy Research and Strategy Support Program for Food Security and Agricultural Development in Bangladesh
- Strengthening Partnerships, Results and Innovations in Nutrition Globally
- Aquaculture Project
- Accelerating Capacity for Monitoring and Evaluation
- Agriculture Mechanization and Irrigation
- Avian Influenza activity
- Cold Chain Bangladesh
- Mobile Banking/Mobile Money
- Trade Facilitation Activity
- Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
- Integrated Agriculture-Health Based Initiative
- National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Program
- Enhancing Essential Life Skills
- SHIKHA project
- [Arcadia Biosciences and CIMMYT partnership, salt-tolerant rice](#)
- Agriculture Infrastructure Development with Local Government Engineering Department (Funding to Government of Bangladesh)
- Local Capacity Building Support
- [USAID Food for Peace program](#)

Other Feed the Future-supported programs at work in Bangladesh:

- CGIAR Fund Core Grant with World Bank
- [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Aquaculture and Fisheries](#)
- [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Assets and Market Access](#)
- [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Horticulture](#)
- [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Integrated Pest Management](#)
- [Modernizing Extension and Advisory Services](#)
- Abiotic Stress Tolerant Wheat and Rice
- [International Fertilizer Development Center](#)
- [Asian Vegetable Research Development Center](#)
- [Global Agriculture and Food Security Program](#)
- [USDA Food for Progress program](#)

For success stories from these projects, visit the [Related News](#) section on this page.



*2012 is included in the President's budget request to Congress and is not yet approved

Funding

Target Regions